

Claims:

1. A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients
and being formed from substantially air- and water-
impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising a
compartment containing the one or more beverage
ingredients, the compartment comprising a plurality of
inlet apertures for the introduction of an aqueous
medium into the compartment and a plurality of outlet
apertures for a beverage produced from the one or more
beverage ingredients, wherein at least a proportion of
the inlet apertures are out of alignment with the
outlet apertures such that at least a proportion of the
aqueous medium entering the compartment through the
inlet apertures is forced to circulate within the
compartment before exiting the compartment through the
outlet apertures, characterised in that the inlet
apertures are arranged around the periphery of the
compartment.
2. A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the inlet
apertures are equi-spaced around the compartment
periphery.
3. A cartridge as claimed in claim 2 wherein the outlet
apertures are located towards a centre of the
compartment relative to the inlet apertures.
4. A cartridge as claimed in claim 3 wherein the outlet
apertures are equi-spaced around the centre of the
compartment.

5. A cartridge as claimed in claim 4 comprising 3 to 10 inlet apertures.
- 5 6. A cartridge as claimed in claim 5 comprising 4 inlet apertures.
7. A cartridge as claimed in claim 6 comprising 3 to 10 outlet apertures.
- 10 8. A cartridge as claimed in claim 7 comprising 5 outlet apertures.
9. A cartridge as claimed in claim 8 comprising unequal
15 numbers of inlet apertures and outlet apertures.
10. A cartridge as claimed in claim 9 wherein the number of inlet apertures and outlet apertures are given by the formula:
- 20
$$X_o = X_i + C$$
- where
- 25 X_i = the number of inlet apertures
 X_o = the number of outlet apertures
 C = the set of integers not including 0 or nX_i
 n = any integer.
- 30 11. A cartridge as claimed in claim 8 comprising equal numbers of inlet apertures and outlet apertures.

12. A cartridge as claimed in claim 11 wherein the inlet apertures are provided in an outer member of the cartridge and the outlet apertures are provided in an inner member of the cartridge.
13. A cartridge as claimed in claim 12 wherein the inner member comprises a discharge spout communicating with the outlet apertures.
14. A cartridge as claimed in claim 13 wherein the cartridge is disc-shaped.
15. A cartridge as claimed in claim 14 wherein the flow of aqueous medium through the inlet apertures into the compartment is directed radially inwards towards a centre of the cartridge.
16. A cartridge as claimed in claim 15 wherein the one or more beverage ingredients are soluble in the aqueous medium.
17. A cartridge as claimed in claim 16 wherein the one or more beverage ingredients is a liquid chocolate or coffee ingredient.
18. A cartridge as claimed in claim 17 wherein the one or more beverage ingredients is a concentrated liquid or gel.

19. A cartridge as claimed in claim 18 wherein the liquid beverage ingredient has a viscosity of between 70 and 3900mPa at ambient temperature.
- 5 20. A cartridge as claimed in claim 19 wherein the liquid beverage ingredient has a viscosity of between 1700 and 3900mPa at ambient temperature.
- 10 21. A cartridge as claimed in claim 12 wherein the outer member and/or inner member are formed from polypropylene.
- 15 22. A cartridge as claimed in claim 21 wherein the outer member and/or inner member is formed by injection moulding.
23. A cartridge as claimed in claim 22 wherein the outer member and/or inner member are formed from a biodegradable polymer.